

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 16623 061302Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2068

S E C R E T BONN 16623

NODIS

DEPARTMENT PASS WHITE HOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, UNGA, GW

SUBJECT: GENSCHER ON US POSITION ON USE OF NUCLEAR
WEAPONS

REFS: (A) BONN 16509; (B) BONN 16596

1. GENSCHER CALLED ME IN URGENTLY THE MORNING OF
OCTOBER 6 REGARDING THE PRESIDENT'S UNGA SPEECH AND
US POLICY ON THE USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

2. GENSCHER NOTED PRESS REPORTS QUOTING THE WHITE
HOUSE SPOKESMAN AS HAVING SAID OCTOBER 4 THAT THE
PRESIDENT'S UNGA STATEMENT REPRESENTED A "CHANGE IN
US POLICY" AND THAT THE US "HAS ALWAYS MAINTAINED THAT
WE WOULD NOT CONDUCT A FIRST NUCLEAR STRIKE." GENSCHER
OBSERVED THAT THE PRESIDENT'S UNGA REMARKS ON THIS
SUBJECT WERE CLEAR AND THE FRG FULLY UNDERSTOOD THAT
THEY DID NOT, IN FACT, REPRESENT A SHIFT IN POLICY. HE
WAS, HOWEVER, VERY CONCERNED THAT THE PRESS AND
PARTICULARLY THE SOVIETS MIGHT MISTAKENLY INTERPRET
THEM AS SUCH. GENSCHER ASKED, THEREFORE, THAT WE
SERIOUSLY CONSIDER TAKING AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO
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PAGE 02 BONN 16623 061302Z

CLARIFY US POLICY ON THIS SUBJECT.

3. REFERRING TO OUR EARLIER CONVERSATION (REF A), I
AGREED FULLY WITH GENSCHER'S ASSESSMENT THAT NO POLICY
SHIFT WAS INTENDED BY THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS, AND I
REITERATED GIST OF POINTS I HAD MADE OCTOBER 4. I
NOTED THAT, IN THIS CONTEXT, WE HAD BEEN PLEASED TO

SEE THE OCTOBER 5 STATEMENT BY FRG GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN
BOELLING WELCOMING THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS. I TOLD
GENSCHER I WOULD REPORT HIS VIEWS TO WASHINGTON.

4. AS WE LEFT THE MINISTER'S OFFICE, POLITICAL DIRECTOR
BLECH UNDERLINED TO ME THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH
GENSCHER VIEWS THIS MATTER. HE SAID THIS IS AN
EXCEEDINGLY SENSITIVE SUBJECT AND IT IS IMPORTANT
TO HAVE IT CLARIFIED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Sent Date: 06-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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